

BAR, WED., C. H., 16th June 1866.

My Dear Sir:—Your kind note of the 11th inst. informing me that "at a meeting of the citizens of Edgefield and Lexington, at Bethel Church on the 21st of June, upon the absorbing question of the day, the indebtment of the people, and the best means of staying the wide-spread ruin that awaits us as a people," has been received. By the same mail I also received a like invitation from Messrs. Norris, Watson and Bontwright.

While I thank you all very sincerely for the kindness of your invitation, I cannot accept it. The Judges of South Carolina do not usually participate in public meetings of the people. As a general rule it is a good one, yet there are occasions when Judges like all other citizens, should embrace the opportunity to express their opinions freely and lend their influence to advance particular measures of great public interest. But this is not such an occasion; "the indebtment of the people" is a question that will come before the Judges officially and of course, no Judge can have an opinion until the case is made before him in court.

I do not think I can be mistaken in the object of your meeting; it is to avoid the payment of debts. It is due to myself frankly to state, that I do not sympathize with any movement which has for its object the avoiding of fair and honest contracts. Nor can I in any way countenance any meeting which may encourage the people to resist the laws of the land. No man in the State feels more deeply the terrible condition in which our people have been left by the results of the war, than myself. In addition to the manifold losses of relative friends, in battle, to the failure to establish the great principles for which we fought, and to the mortification of defeat, we have lost, in this State, at once and without preparation, over two hundred millions of property, which is the abstraction of just so much capital and labor from the payments of debts, which, in good faith, were incurred on the strength of that property and labor. The property is gone, the labor is very uncertain, the debts remain. Perhaps no people in the history of the world, have ever been so suddenly and completely ruined as this Southern people. But even this ruin can be repaired by energy, constancy and virtue. Let us preserve our honor, and at least try to pay our debts. *Be Honest.*

This common calamity in which all participate, both debtor and creditor, the loss is mutual and as hard to bear; the one class as by the other; common justice, it would seem, ought to dictate to all the propriety of making an earnest effort to meet their engagements. A contract is a sacred obligation, equally binding in the court of conscience and in the court of law. Our duty is plain, it is *forbearance*. We should all act towards each other as neighbors and not burden those who are indebted to us with the costs of suit. I know this is not always practical, because in all communities there are some hard men who will have their own, without regard to the loss and distress which it occasions to their debtor; but the honor of humanity, I do not think this is a large class, and if the rule of forbearance be adopted, it will rebuke and shame those who set at naught the better feelings of our nature.

It may be supposed, that because I dissent from the majority of the Court of Errors on the Constitutionality of the Stay Law, that I will sympathize with those who favor resistance to the laws of the land. This is a great mistake. Although I do not agree with the Court (and subsequent reflection strengthens me in my conviction,) yet there is no citizen who will counsel more earnestly acquiescence in the decision, and support more firmly the laws of the land; and the constituted authorities of the State, than myself. As I stand alone in the Court, it is very probable I am wrong, although I cannot see the error of my judgment. My earnest counsel to you, and to all the good men of the State is, obey the laws of the land, pay as far as you can and when your means are exhausted, you will have done all in your power, and can commence life again with a clear conscience and a brave heart.

I am informed, that his Excellency Gov. Orr, will probably call the Legislature together, in extra session, at an early day, to perfect such legislation as is required by the changed condition of society. If this be so I have no doubt, that the wise and patriotic men who compose that body, will devise some relief, which while it will afford time to the suffering people, and prevent the sacrifice of their property at forced sales, will not be liable to constitutional objections.

Trusting that you will receive my counsel kindly and in the friendly spirit in which it is written, I am,  
Very Respectfully, your ob't serv't  
A. P. ALDRICH.

**THE MISSOURI TEST OATH.**—A Cairo despatch gives the particulars of another peculiarly radical proceeding that recently occurred at Cape Girardeau. The Sisters, teachers of a religious school for young ladies at that place, were arrested by radical officers from Missouri for teaching without taking the oath. The greatest indignation was aroused among all classes of the people by this contemptible conduct, and the prisoners were accompanied to the jail by the entire population. The final result was that, through mingled shame and fright, the radicals were brought to their senses and released the young ladies. Their sense is about as pitiful an occurrence as has come to our notice for a long time. *New York News.*

**IMPORTANT TO NATIONAL BANKS.**—Mr. F. E. Spinner, Treasurer of the United States, writes to a bank cashier as follows:  
"It has not hitherto been supposed that any bank would claim to be allowed to deduct from its overdrafts of sum due from other banks, virtually overdrafts. The deposits shown by the books of your bank as deposits to be returned for payment of the same, without any deduction, whether of amounts due from other banks or of individual overdrafts, which are really loans illegitimately and improperly made, opposed to all principles of good banking, and against which there should be the most strict regulations."

## The Abbeville Press.

Abbeville, S. C.

W. A. LEE, EDITOR.

TERMS.—Three Dollars a year in advance.

Friday, July 13, 1866.

The friends of JOHN W. LEELEY, Esq.

respectfully announce him a candidate for Clerk of the Court.

The friends of MATTHEW McDONALD, Esq.

respectfully announce him a candidate for Clerk of the Court.

The friends of JOSEPH T. MOORE, Esq.

respectfully announce him a candidate for Sheriff of Abbeville District, at the next election.

Local Press.—Please announce MILTON F. HURCHISON as a candidate for Sheriff at the next election. *Many Friends.*

We are authorized to announce DAVID CRAWFORD, a candidate for Tax Collector at the ensuing election.

The friends of S. W. COCHRAN, Esq.

respectfully announce him a candidate for Sheriff at the next election.

The Annual Commencement of the

DUP WEST FEMALE COLLEGE.

We had the pleasure of attending the

Annual Commencement of this flourishing

institution, on Wednesday last, and with

great interest and pleasure, we witnessed

the exercises of the day, and were

very happy to present our readers with an

account of the exercises of the occasion.

The institution, as is known to many of our

readers, was established in 1852, and has

since been steadily increasing in

popularity. The present commencement

was one of more than usual brilliancy

and we trust will serve to extend more

widely the reputation of the College, and

enlarge the sphere of its influence.

Rev. J. I. Bonner, President and Professor

of Moral and Mental Philosophy.

J. F. Lee, Jr., Prof. pro tem. of Mathematics,

Natural Philosophy and Chemistry.

J. P. Kennedy, Prof. pro tem. of Latin

History and Rhetoric.

Teacher of French.

Miss E. McQuinn, Trial Prin. Depart. and

Instructor in Ornamental Branches.

Miss A. Lila Moore, Teacher of Music, Piano.

Miss A. Julia Nixon, Teacher of Vocal and

Instrumental Music.

The Annual Examination commenced on

Thursday of the preceding week, and we

learn from those who were present, was of the

most thorough and satisfactory character, exhibiting

a gratifying evidence of the success of the

instructors in accomplishing the great object

of an education—mental training and the power

of thought, rather than the increase of knowl-

edge—and that whilst special attention had

been devoted to the useful branches of study,

the ornamental had not been neglected.

On Sunday the Commencement Sermon

was preached by the President, Rev. J. I. Bonner,

and is said to have been a discourse replete

with sound thought and practical wisdom.

On Monday and Tuesday, the Examination

was continued with an Exhibition of the Male

College by way of interlude, on Tuesday night.

A number of original speeches were delivered

by the young gentlemen, who acquitted them-

selves very ably.

Wednesday was Commencement Day of the

Female College, and at an early hour Lindsay

Hall was filled to repletion with a gay assem-

blage of youth and beauty. The Hall is one

of the finest in the State, and we suppose is

capable of seating 1,500 persons. Upon the

elevated platform in the rear of the Hall were

seated the young ladies of the College,

and above and around were the tasteful

specimens of their handicraft, in the beautiful

wreaths of flowers and evergreens, and a num-

ber of remarkably well executed paintings.

Soon came thronging in, the bright array of

over one hundred pupils headed by their pre-

ceptors and after an appropriate prayer by the

Rev. J. O. Lindsay, the various Compositions

of the graduating class, were read by the pro-

fessors, and gentlemen of their selection. The

subjects presented a very agreeable variety,

and were discussed with much judgment and

taste. We herewith annex a copy of this part

of the programme. Between the various com-

positions, were executed choice pieces of music

under the direction of the accomplished teach-

ers, Messrs. Morse and Nixon, which enhanced

very much the attractiveness of the exercises

and the general enjoyment.

PROGRAMME.

To Seem, and to Be—Miss NANNIE ALLEN,

Due West.

Literary Genius—Miss JULIA BOROUGHS,

Anderson.

Be Useful and Be Happy—Miss CARIE

BROWN, Newberry.

Holy as Heaven, a Mother's Tender Love—

Miss LIZZIE DUNN, Anderson.

The Duties of Life are More than Life—

Miss LIZZIE COWAN, Due West.

Nature's Teaching—Miss LIZZIE JENNINGS,

Edgefield.

Learn to Labor and to Wait—Miss ROSA

RENNICK, Newberry.

"Sad heart cease pining,

Behind the cloud the sun is shining"

—Miss ELLA A. STALKER, Edgefield.

Astronomy—Miss CARIE WATSON, Anderson.

The Quiet Mind Enjoys Sweetest Rest—Miss

JANE WIDEMAN, Abbeville.

President Bonner in delivering the diploma

to the graduating class, addressed them in a

beautiful Baccalaureate, in which he alluded

very happily to the mingled emotions of pleasure

and pain which make up the life of the

scholar. His pleasure is akin to that of the

sculptor who models the rude marble to his

own ideal of beauty and grace, or of the

painter who transfers to canvas, the lovely

creatures of his fancy—whilst the transitory

character of the conception is constantly at-

tended with the pain which flows from the in-

evitable separation which it imposes. He con-

cluded with some excellent advice for the

proper performance of those "duties of life"

which "are more than life."

After a recess of one hour, next followed the

"Alumni Essay" of Miss M. Fannie Bradley

upon the "Sufferings and Happiness of Woman,"

which was read by the Rev. W. M. Orr. It

was a gracefully written essay, beautiful in

thought and polished in style, giving evidence

of a well cultivated taste, and displaying the

fruits of much reading and reflection.

The closing act of the drama was the Anti-

versary Address delivered before the Literary

Society by E. G. DeFontaine, Esq., of Columbia. Subject: "The Character and Influence of Woman—Her Proper Education." We express, we believe, the general concurrent opinion of all present, in characterizing the address as an admirable one—distinguished by more than the author's usual piquancy and vivacity of style— witty, humorous, suggestive, original—critical, didactic, discursive—sometimes profound, generally instructive and always entertaining, for more than an hour it enchaind the attention of the audience. The distinguishing characteristics of the sexes, were clearly defined, and nicely discriminated, whilst his graphic delineation of the rolicking boy, "that steam engine in breeches," fairly brought down the house. The prevailing extravagances of fashionable life, and the perverted tendencies of fashionable education, were mercilessly dissected, whilst in the address were clearly set forth the leading principles of an education, which can alone enable women to discharge her true mission of "making home happy."

We regret that we did not enjoy the pleasure of attending the Concert on Wednesday night.

THE NATIONAL UNION CONVENTION.

We herewith publish the card of Governor Orr, as Vice-President of the National Union Club, for the State of South Carolina, urging upon our citizens the necessity of being represented in the National Union Convention.

which is to be held in Philadelphia on the 11th August next. He suggests that public meetings of the citizens of each Judicial District be held on the fourth Monday of July instant, (next) at the various Court Houses for the purpose of appointing delegates to a Convention of the State to meet in Columbia, on Wednesday, the first day of August, and that the State Convention appoint delegates to the Philadelphia Convention. We trust that our citizens will respond promptly to the call, and that a full delegation of our ablest public men will be sent to represent the interests of the South, and to give free expression to her sentiments in the approaching Convention.

The objects of the proposed Convention affect the vital interests of the South, and their advancement, we trust, will secure its earnest sympathy and support. It is proposed to rally the conservative men of all parties in support of the President and his policy, and to organize a power which will defeat the disorganizing schemes of the Radicals at the coming elections. The controlling principle and most distinguishing feature of that policy, is Southern representation—the full restoration of the South to "the rights the dignity and equality of States in the Union." It seeks to assuage the animosities and dissensions which have been engendered by the war, and to restore the Union to its original harmony and integrity. It opposes the absorbing, grasping tendency of a central despotism, seeks to preserve unimpaired the rights of the States and to administer the Government according to the Constitution as interpreted and acted upon by the fathers of the republic. It recognizes the right of each State, to prescribe the qualifications of its own electors, and denies that any external power can control the voluntary exercise of that right. It maintains inviolate all the rights of the States and especially the right of each State to control its own domestic concerns according to its own judgment exclusively, subject only to the Constitution of the United States. Such are the great principles which are recognized in the call of the Union Club, and to unite in the advancement of which the South is invited to send delegates to the Philadelphia Convention. The terms of admission are liberal and comprehensive enough to embrace a full representation of its patriotism and intelligence. Shall we hesitate a moment in giving our support to the movement, and strengthening the hands of those who are fighting in the only practicable way the battle of conservatism. Let us send our ablest men, and thus prove to the conservative men of all sections, that we feel a deep interest in the objects proposed, and are ready to co-operate in the most effectual means for their accomplishment.

TO THE CITIZENS OF SOUTH CAROLINA.

FELLOW-CITIZENS: As Vice-President of the National Union Club for the State of South Carolina, I cordially invite your attention to the call for a National Convention, issued by the Executive Committee of that body, and recommended by many of the most eminent and patriotic members of both branches of the present Congress. The importance of this meeting, and the beneficial consequences to result from it, can scarcely be exaggerated. Separated as we have been for the last five years from all communication with the people of the North and West; knowing but little of their opinions, except as expressed through the unjust and oppressive action of the bitter partisan majority which at present controls the National Legislature, this is the first opportunity which has been offered us to take free and equal counsel with those who feel impelled, by a sense of high patriotism, to oppose the unjust schemes of the radicals in their systematic effort to oppress and humiliate the people of these States, and defeat, if possible, the reconstruction of the Union indefinitely. The address states clearly the principles upon which we are expected to act in common, and it seems to me there is not one citizen who cannot subscribe in honor to the call. We simply recognize those results which the events of the late war have placed beyond the bounds of any future political discussion, results in which we have unanimously and sincerely acquiesced, and in conformity to which we have already modified our Constitution, our legislation and our political sentiments. We are invited to join in an acknowledgment of the wisdom of that policy by which Andrew Johnson, President of the United States, has, in the midst of difficulties unparalleled in the history of any Administration, maintained the integrity of the Constitution, identified the exercise of the Executive power with the rules of strict justice, and the spirit of mercy, and proved his legitimate right to succeed the great founders of the republic as the Chief Magistrate of a common country, which can be made and preserved as one nation only by the equal administration of just and equal laws.

The purpose of the Convention will be to organize, upon the principles set forth in the committee's address, all conservative men of all sections, and of all former parties, and, if possible, drive from power that radical party who are daily trampling under foot the Constitution, and fast converting a Constitutional Republic into a consolidated despotism. The great mass of the people, North and West, have no higher interest in party than through to secure the wise, enlightened, just government of the country, and when organization is effected, and the President's solicitous policy of reconstruction is presented for their approval or condemnation, there can be little doubt that he will be triumphantly sustained, and our rights as equals in a restored Union fully conceded. The great organization of the conservative men is a necessary and successful one, the organized bands of the radicals, and every man

who disapproves of the tyrannical and unwise policy of the latter, should join in the national patriotic league to defeat them. We are without representation in both Houses of Congress; neither our opinions nor our action can be felt in the country; unjust and discriminating taxes are imposed on us—a people almost impoverished by the calamities of the last five years—and we are allowed no voice of protest even in the councils of the nation. Our loyalty to the Government of the United States is pledged in the face of our calls of all, and yet, taken solemnly and in good faith, and the poor privilege of an official denial is withheld. We are threatened with disfranchisement and being re-manded to a territorial condition, and we are to be denied all the rights and privileges dear to an American, and consociated by the blood of the heroes of 1776, until we subscribe to terms too degrading and humiliating to be entertained by a freeman for a single moment.

We, then, have the deepest interest in the meeting of the Convention, in organizing a conservative men to aid in carrying out the will and generous policy inaugurated by President Johnson, and I therefore reiterate the earnest hope that the citizens of each Judicial District be held on the fourth Monday of July instant, (next) at the Court Houses, and that delegates be appointed at these meetings to a Convention of the State, to meet at Columbia, on Wednesday, the first day of August; that the State Convention appoint the delegates to Philadelphia. Each Judicial District sends as many delegates to Columbia as may be convenient or agreeable, and that Convention determining the vote of each District, which will, perhaps, be a vote equal to the representation of each District in the House of Representatives.

Delegates from the several Judicial Districts meeting upon the Convention, will most likely be charged with the selection of two delegates for each District, and the whole Convention select the four delegates at large to represent the State. The selection of the delegates for the State at large would seem to require a State Convention, and if it assembles, it would be desirable, as a body, to select, if it should be possible, the District delegates.

These suggestions as to the mode of selecting a convention—the time, place of meeting, and the basis of organization—are made in the hope of certainly securing action in every District, and there is no time otherwise to settle by discussion or consultation the details which I have ventured to suggest.

Vice-President of the Union Club.

For South Carolina.

ADDRESS, S. C., July 1, 1866.

HANDSOME PRESENT.

We are indebted to Messrs. Martin & Jones, the enterprising proprietors of the well known Calloway Mills, for a handsome present in the shape of a sack of very superior flour, ground at the aforesaid mills. We tender those gentlemen our best thanks for the handsome donation, and beg leave to say that we regard it the best evidence of their judgment and liberality—their judgment in so clearly perceiving the wants of editors, and of their liberality in so promptly meeting them.

We are pleased to state that these Mills rank inferior to none in the State. They have been thoroughly repaired by superior workmen, and are now in complete order—having recently purchased an elegant bolting cloth, and the latest improved sifter, together with the most experienced millers, the proprietors are prepared to offer inducements to customers. Messrs. Martin & Jones are ever courteous and accommodating to the wants of their patrons. Besides giving a superior article of flour, they furnish a large yield from all wheat.

DEMOCRATIC ADDRESS.

The following address of the National Democratic party, just issued, is signed by the Hon. Reverdy Johnson and forty other Senators and members of Congress. It endorses all the views and purposes set forth in the recent call of the National Union Club, and seeks to unite the conservative men of all parties in securing the overthrow of Radicalism at the coming elections. It is to be hoped that it will be accepted by the Democratic organizations generally, and secure the support of Democratic leaders, who fear to unite with Conservative Republicans, lest they may weaken their party organization. The Union of that great party, with the moderate Republicans will easily secure the triumph of Conservatism, and we trust that this Union will be effectually cemented at the approaching Convention.

WASHINGTON, July 4, 1866.

To the people of the United States:

Dangers threaten. The Constitution—the

shield of our liberties—is directly assailed.

The future is dark unless the people come to the rescue.

In this hour of peril, National Union should be the watchword of every true man.

As essential to National Union we must

maintain unimpaired the rights the dignity and

equality of the States, including the right

of representation in Congress, and the exclu-

sive right of each State to control its own

domestic concerns, subject only to the Constitu-

tion of the United States.

After a uniform construction of the Constitu-

tion, and of the history of the century, the as-

sumption of new and arbitrary powers in the

Federal Government is subversive of our sys-

tem and destructive of liberty.

A free interchange of opinion and kind feel-

ing between the citizens of all the States is nec-

essary to the perpetuity of the Union. At

present, eleven States are excluded from the

national council. For seven long months, the

present Congress has persistently denied any

right or representation to the people of those

States. Laws affecting their highest and dear-

est interests have been passed, and in disregard

of the fundamental principle of free govern-

ment. This denial of representation has been

made to all the members from a State, al-

though the State, in the language of the Pres-

ident, "presents itself not only in an attitude

of loyalty and harmony, but in the persons of

representatives whose loyalty cannot be ques-

tioned under any existing constitutional or legal

test."

The representatives of nearly one-third of

the States have not been consulted with refer-

ence to the great questions of the day. There

has been no national policy surrounding the

present Congress; there has been no intercourse

between the representatives of the several

States producing mutual confidence and respect.

In the language of the distinguished Lieutenant-

General, "It is to be regretted that at this

time there cannot be a greater commingling

&lt;